

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs [0040] and [0041] as follows:

[0040] The steering mechanism 104 preferably comprises a steering shaft 110 coupled with the steering wheel 106, a tie-rod 108 coupled with the front wheels 56, and a rack-and-pinion assembly 112 that connects the steering shaft 110 to the tie-rod 108. The rack-and-pinion assembly 112 converts the pivotal movement of the steering wheel 106 to an axial movement of the tie-rod 108. The rack-and pinion assembly 112 preferably is housed in a gear case. The driver can operate the steering wheel 106 when seated on the seat 68.

[0041] The tie rods 108 preferably are connected to rod sections that extend outward from the rack and pinion assembly 112. In some arrangements, an inner ball joint couples the rod sections to the respective tie rods 108. Also, an outer ball joint preferably couples each tie rod 108 to a knuckle arm (not shown) that is associated with each front wheel 56. Each knuckle arm is coupled with a king pin (not shown) that extends from an axle of the front wheel 56. The tie-rods 108 move axially along with the rod sections when the steering shaft 110 is rotated.